

VZCZCXRO1417
RR RUEHAG RUEHROV
DE RUEHDL #0104 0601452
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 291452Z FEB 08
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8923
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA 0012

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 000104

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/01/2018

TAGS: PGOV PREL EUN CU EI

SUBJECT: IRELAND: EU VISIT TO CUBA WILL CONFORM WITH
DUEL-TRACK POLICY

REF: A. STATE 20108

1B. STATE 18317

Classified By: Political/Economic Chief Theodore Pierce
for reasons 1.4 (B) and (D).

11. (C) POLOFF delivered reftel demarches to Americas Desk Officer Karen Miller, Department of Foreign Affairs, on February 29. Acknowledging USG concerns regarding the timing and focus of EU Commissioner Michel's visit to Cuba, Miller emphasized that the EU Common Position on Cuba requires that any EU official visiting Cuba use the dual-track approach of meeting with both the GOC and dissidents. She indicated that Michel's visit would adhere to this requirement, noting that Michel's visit had been planned well in advance of the recent presidential change. Miller said that she would share the USG concerns with Ireland's representatives to the EU. Irish officials do not have plans to visit Cuba in the near future, she concluded.

12. (C) Comment: Ireland would certainly support the emergence of democracy in Cuba and would agree that human rights abuses need to stop. However, Ireland's policy toward the new Cuban regime will almost certainly reflect emerging EU policy. End comment.

FOLEY